

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Notice of Availability

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-UT-C030-2010-0007-EA

Cottonwood Road Tortoise Protection Fence, Washington County, Utah

Agency: St. George Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

This serves as the Notice of Availability for an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared to consider the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction of fence for the protection of Mojave Desert tortoise, located on public lands administered by BLM in the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, Washington County. You can request that a copy of the EA be mailed to you or review a copy at the St. George Field Office, at the address shown below. Public comments will be accepted during the 30 day review period for this EA. Comments on the EA must be in writing, submitted to the address below, and received by BLM by the close of business on August 31, 2011.

To request a copy of the EA, please contact:

St. George Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
 Attn: Tim Croissant, Wildlife Biologist
 345 East Riverside Drive
 St. George, UT 84790
 (435) 688-3333 Fax (435) 688-3252
 Email: Tcroissa@blm.gov

Information: The St. George Field Office-BLM is proposing to construct 11 miles of range and tortoise mesh fence along both sides of Cottonwood Road in the area jointly administered as the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, in order to protect the Mojave Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), a federally-listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This would be consistent with the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 and the St. George Field Office Resource Management Plan of 1999. This total amount of fencing proposed to be repaired, installed, or improved would be approximately 11 miles (6.5 miles each way, excluding land not managed by the BLM), on both sides of the roadway, 50 feet from the centerline of the road. The EA discloses the potential impacts to the human environment that could result from this federal action.

Privacy Information for Those Who Submit Written Comments:

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. In addition, you must present a rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documented circumstances, this information will be released. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

